

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /050 W
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R 112016Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2400
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 13821

USEEC

E.9. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, GR, PFOR, ECIN
SUBJ: EC-GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS
REF: BRUSSELS 8834

1. SUMMARY: ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF QUARTERLY EC-GREECE
MINISTERIAL NEGOTIATING SESSIONS IS SCHEDULED OCTOBER 17
IN LUXEMBOURG. OUR DISCUSSIONS LAST WEEK WITH EC
COMMISSION, PERMDEL, AND GREEK MISSION OFFICIALS
INDICATE THAT WHILE THE GREEK ACCESSION TALKS ARE PRO-
CEEDING WELL ENOUGH UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES (I.E., GIVEN
THE FACT THAT THE EC HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON THE NATURE
AND EXTENT OF THE REFORMS WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED OF THE
COMMUNITY IF IT AGREES TO MEMBERSHIP FOR THE THREE
PRESENT APPLICANTS, OR ON THE PRECISE TERMS UNDER WHICH
NEW MEMBERS WILL BE WELCOMED), IT IS UNLIKELY THAT EC
AND GREEK NEGOTIATORS WILL BE ABLE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH
THE THORNY ISSUES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY
AGRICULTURE, UNTIL SOMETIME NEXT YEAR. HOWEVER, THE
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NINE ARE CONSIDERING MAKING A STATEMENT AT THE
OCTOBER 17 SESSION WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT SUBSTANTIAL
PROGRESS HAS OCCURRED IN CLARIFYING BASIC POSITIONS OF
THE TWO SIDES SINCE THE LAST MINISTERIAL MEETING IN
JULY, AND THAT HENCE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW
IN PROGRESS. ACCORDING TO PERMDEL AND COMMISSION
OFFICIALS, SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE DESIGNED TO AID

CARAMANLIS IN HIS CURRENT ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

2. AT MINISTERIAL NEGOTIATING SESSION IN JULY, EC AGREED THAT GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS HAD ENTERED THEIR "SECOND STAGE," BUT SAID THAT FURTHER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATION OF VIEWS EXPRESSED DURING INITIAL PHASE WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE TALKS COULD ENTER THEIR "DECISIVE STAGE" (REFTEL). COMMISSION, PERMDEL, AND GREEK MISSION OFFICIALS TOLD US LAST WEEK THAT PROCESS OF EXCHANGE AND CLARIFICATION IS NOW STEADILY GOING FORWARD, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE JULY MINISTERIAL AND THE ENSUING SUMMER HOLIDAYS. IN THE ONE NEGOTIATING SESSION HELD AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN LATE SEPTEMBER, THE GREEKS PRESENTED A PAPER DETAILING THEIR VIEWS ON GREECE'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS ONCE IT BECOMES A MEMBER. GREEK PAPER ARGUED THAT BY VIRTUE OF SIMILAR POPULATIONS, GREECE SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE BELGIUM--E.G., ONE GREEK COMMISSIONER, 14 MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND 24 MEMBERS OF THE FIRST DIRECTLY-ELECTED PARLIAMENT, TWO MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT, ETC. EC SIDE LIMITED ITS COMMENTS TO NOTING THAT GREEK PAPER APPEARED TO BE SOMEWHAT ABSTRACT, SINCE COMMUNITY IS EVEN NOW CONSIDERING INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS WHICH COULD HAVE A BEARING ON OVERALL SIZE OF COMMISSION, AND COULD AFFECT OTHER INSTITUTIONS WHICH GREEK PAPER CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDRESSED AS WELL. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION OFFICIAL HEADING TASK FORCE BACKSTOPPING THE NEGOTIATIONS, GREEKS SAID THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANY REFORMS COMMUNITY MAY ADOPT PROVIDED GREECE, UPON ACCESSION, IS TREATED COMMENSURATELY WITH ITS SIZE.

3. IN LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER 17 MINISTERIAL NEGOTIATING SESSION, OFFICIALS WE CONSULTED RECALLED THAT MINISTERIAL MEETINGS ARE DESIGNED TO "REVIEW" WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MINISTERIAL ROUNDS AND NOTED THAT, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE VERY FEW WORKING WEEKS THAT HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE JULY SESSION, "THERE IS NOTHING MUCH NEW TO REVIEW." HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO COMMISSION AND PERMDEL OFFICIALS, IN RESPONSE TO QUIET GREEK DIPLOMACY AIMED AT GETTING THE COMMUNITY TO PICK UP THE NEGOTIATING PACE (THESE OFFICIALS SAY THE GREEKS ARGUE THAT TO DO OTHERWISE WILL ENCOURAGE THE POLITICAL LEFT IN GREECE), EC MEMBER STATES ARE TRYING TO AGREE ON A STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED AT THE OCTOBER 17 SESSION INDICATING THAT SUFFICIENT CLARIFICATION OF INITIAL VIEWS HAS OCCURRED TO PERMIT ACTUAL DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN UNDER SOME OF THE CHAPTER HEADINGS OF A FINAL

ACCESSION AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO GERMAN PERMDEL SOURCE, SOME OF NINE ARE PREPARED TO AGREE TO A STATEMENT SAYING SIMPLY THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW READY TO BEGIN, WHILE ITALIANS AND FRENCH ARE ARGUING THAT THE STATEMENT SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE COMMUNITY IS NOT YET PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON AGRICULTURE, THE MOST DIFFICULT SINGLE AREA IN THE TALKS. ALL OUR SOURCES A EE THAT IF ANY STATEMENT IS ISSUED, ITS PURPOSE WILL BE TO PERMIT CARAMANLIS TO TELL THE GREEK ELECTORATE THAT THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS ARE STEADILY GOING

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FORWARD.

4. GREEK MISSION OFFICIAL SAID GOG UNDERSTANDS THERE WILL BE NO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. GREEKS ARE AWARE THAT FRANCE AND ITALY WILL NOT PERMIT AGRICULTURAL DISCUSSIONS TO OCCUR UNTIL COMMUNITY HAS DECIDED (HOPEFULLY LATER THIS FALL, OR EARLY WINTER) ON THE REFORMS WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY FOR MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE AS A WHOLE AS A RESULT OF COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT. THE EC'S BELGIAN PRESIDENCY HAS TOLD GOG QUITE FRANKLY THAT AFTER CHECKING WITH ITS EC PARTNERS, IT HAS CONCLUDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF GREEK ACCESSION TALKS CANNOT OCCUR DURING BELGIAN PRESIDENCY, WHICH RUNS THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR.

5. ALL OUR SOURCES AGREE THAT THE TIME-CONSUMING JOB

OF COMPARING COMMUNITY SECONDARY LEGISLATION WITH
RELEVANT GREEK LEGISLATION, BEING CARRIED ON BY EXPERTS
OF THE TWO SIDES OUTSIDE THE MAIN NEGOTIATING ARENA, IS
PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY. AT A LATER STAGE IN THE
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NEGOTIATIONS, THE EXPERTS WILL REFER TO THE CHIEF
NEGOTIATORS THOSE LEGISLATIVE DISCREPANCIES WHICH THE
EXPERTS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RESOLVE.

6. APART FROM THE OVERRIDING FACT THAT NEGOTIATING FOR
MEMBERSHIP WITH ALL NINE OF A NINE-MEMBER CLUB IS
CUMBERSOME BY DEFINITION, COUNSELOR AT GREEK MISSION
REGISTERED WITH US ONLY ONE COMPLAINT ABOUT EC'S
NEGOTIATING MODUS OPERANDI. HE SAID THAT MUCH VALUABLE
TIME WAS LOST IN THE SWITCH LAST SUMMER FROM THE U.K.
EC PRESIDENCY TO THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY. IN HIS VERSION,
SOME WEEKS WERE LOST AFTER JULY 1 WHILE THE BELGIANS
WERE FIRST GEARING UP FOR THEIR PRESIDENCY, AND THEN
CHANGING PROCEDURES FOR THE EC-GREECE WORKING-LEVEL
EXCHANGES WHICH REGULARLY OCCUR BETWEEN FORMAL MONTHLY
NEGOTIATING SESSIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. GREEK
OFFICIAL THOUGHT THAT AT THE OCTOBER 17 MINISTERIAL
MEETING GREEK NEGOTIATOR PAPALIGOURAS WILL TRY TO PIN
DOWN THE COMMUNITY TO A PERMANENT PROCEDURE DESIGNED
TO SURVIVE THE PASSING OF THE PRESIDENCY TORCH.
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